

Q: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a policy for long-term leasing of railway land for the PM Gati Shakti programme. Consider the key features:

1. Extent land lease to 35 years.
2. Enable the integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals.
3. It will increase the land lease to six percent.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The new policy will help provide land lease for a longer period of up to 35 years as against five years at present.
- With an employment generation potential of about 1.25 lakh jobs, the policy will also bring more revenue to the Railways; 300 cargo terminals will be developed in five years.
- The new policy will enable the integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals.
- It has also cut down land lease fee from 6 percent to 1.5 percent.
- The development is believed to be in line with NITI Aayog's recommendation to keep railway land leasing fee for containers below 3 per cent.

Q: Recently, the Union Cabinet approved to sign MoU between Ministry of Education of India and UAE on cooperation in the field of Education. Consider the following statement:

1. The new MoU will not incorporate changes brought in by the National Education Policy 2020 in India's education ecosystem.
2. It aims to promote Exchange of Information Education, Capacity Development of Technical and vocational Education and Training (TVET) teaching staff
3. It will rejuvenate educational cooperation and increase academic mobility between India and UAE.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Explanation:

- An MoU was signed in 2015 with UAE in the field of Education which expired in 2018.
- In 2019, at a meeting between Education Ministers of the two countries, UAE side proposed to sign a new MoU.
- The new MoU incorporates changes brought in by the National Education Policy 2020 in India's education ecosystem.
- This MoU aims to promote Exchange of Information Education, Capacity Development of Technical and vocational Education and Training (TVET) teaching staff, Facilitation of academic collaboration between Higher Education Institutions in both the countries for offering Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes and any such other areas agreed upon.
- This MoU will rejuvenate educational cooperation and increase academic mobility between India and UAE besides facilitating exchange information in order to promote mutual recognition of these qualifications.
- It also covers cooperation in TVET as UAE is a major work destination for Indians.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh was built by India under Concessional Financing Scheme.
2. Rupsha rail bridge built under the concession Line of Credit (LOC) provided by India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh jointly inaugurated the first unit of the 1320 MW (660x2 MW) Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant at Rampal in Khulna district of Bangladesh.
- The USD 2 billion power plant is being built with USD 1.6 billion as Indian Development Assistance under Concessional Financing Scheme.
- The two leaders also inaugurated the 5.13 kilometre long Rupsha rail bridge built under the concession Line of Credit (LOC) provided by India.
- The bridge is a key part of the 64.7 kilometre long Khulna-Mongla port single track broad gauge rail project.

Q: Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the US Startup SETU in the Bay Area of San Francisco. Consider the following statement:

1. The initiative would connect start-ups in India to US-based investors.
2. The interaction will be supported through the mentorship portal under the Startup India initiative MAARG.
3. A mentor will offer human intelligence in guiding the startups.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling programme (SETU) is designed to break the geographical barriers between mentors based in US that are willing to invest in entrepreneurship and sunrise startups in India.
- The initiative would connect start-ups in India to US-based investors and start-up ecosystem leaders with mentorship and assistance in various areas including funding, market access and commercialization.
- The interaction will be supported through the mentorship portal under the Startup India initiative MAARG, or the Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth program, which is a single-stop solution finder for startups in India.
- The portal has been developed with the idea to be accessible from every corner of the country to connect with a mentor.
- A mentor will offer human intelligence in guiding the startups. It may be noted that till date, more than 200 mentors have been successfully onboarded on MAARG across the globe.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the key features of PM SHRI Scheme:

1. It will provide high-quality education in inclusive environment.
2. It will be developed as Green schools.
3. It is not linked with Sector Skill Councils

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- PM SHRI will provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020.
- The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as Green schools, incorporating environment friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic free, water conservation and harvesting, study of traditions/practices related to protection of environment, climate change related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt sustainable lifestyle.
- Linkage with Sector Skill Councils and local industry for enhancing employability and providing better employment opportunities will be explored.
- A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) is being developed, specifying the key performance indicators to measure outcomes. Quality evaluation of these schools at regular interval will be undertaken to ensure the desired standards.